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**AUGUSTA MAN INDICTED ON CHARGES
RELATING TO FRAUDULENT INVESTMENT SCHEME**

SAVANNAH: Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, today announced that the federal grand jury sitting in Savannah has returned an indictment against Johnny Hollis, age 48, of Evans, Georgia, charging him with having perpetrated a fraudulent investment scheme in which numerous investors were fraudulently deceived into investing funds with Hollis based on representations that the money would be legitimately invested. The indictment charges that over the course of many years, Hollis obtained nearly \$4 million dollars from investors based on fraudulent representations about how the money would be invested. Instead of investing all his clients' funds, as he had promised, the indictment charges that Hollis used a substantial amount of his clients' money to pay off other investors and to pay his business and personal expenses.

Mr. Hollis was arrested by agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Internal Revenue Service on April 27, 2006. An initial appearance is to be held before United States Magistrate Judge W. Leon Barfield.

The 103-count indictment charges Hollis with 46 counts of mail fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1341, 26 counts of wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, and 31 counts of money laundering, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956. The mail and wire fraud statutes carry a statutory penalty ranging from five

to twenty years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment. The money laundering statute carries a statutory penalty of twenty years imprisonment, a \$500,000 fine, three years of supervised release, and a \$100 special assessment.

Wood praised the work of Special Agent Paul Kubala of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Special Agent Roger Garland of the Internal Revenue Service, and Joel Ozburn, formerly a Special Agent with the Internal Revenue Service, whose investigative efforts led to the indictment.

Wood emphasized that an indictment is only an accusation and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is entitled to a fair trial, during which it will be the Government's burden to prove his guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Government is being represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen K. Marsh.

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